

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A surveillance system comprising:
 - an electrical conducting track;
 - two or more carriages movable on said track;
 - a driving means mounted on each said carriage for moving each said carriage to different locations along said track;
 - a power supply providing power to each said carriage;
 - at least one monitoring device mounted on each said carriage providing an output signal for a monitored location;
 - a modulation means receiving said output signal;
 - a transmission means for transmitting modulated output signals on said track;
 - a means for receiving and demodulating said transmitted modulated output signals;
 - a viewing means to view said demodulated output signal at a remote location; and
 - a control means for controlling movement of each said carriage on said track, said control means including means for avoiding collisions between said carriages.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said track comprises three conductors; one conductor for transferring power, a second conductor for transferring video and control signals and a third conductor as ground conductor.

3. (Original) A system of claim 1 wherein said carriages transmit output video signals at a predetermined frequency which frequency is different from the predetermined frequency of other carriages.

4. (Original) A system of claim 1 wherein said carriages receive and transmit data and control signals at a predetermined frequency which is the same frequency for each said carriage.

5. (Original) A system of claim 1 wherein said transmission means is an antenna.

6. (Original) A system of claim 5 wherein said antenna transmits data and/or video information by radio frequency.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said monitoring device operates in the visible, infrared, or ultraviolet spectrum.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said monitoring device is a video camera.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said monitoring device operates in the audio range.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10 wherein said means for avoiding collision comprises:

a location means to determine a location of each said carriage on said track;

a transmission means associated with each said carriage for transmitting said carriage position;

a receiving means for receiving and monitoring said positions of each carriage; and

a means for controlling said position of each said carriage to avoid collision of any said carriages.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

means at a remote location for receiving and storing said positions of each carriage;

means for tracking positions of each said carriage; and

means for controlling movement of said carriages to avoid collision.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

means on each carriage for receiving and storing a position of each adjacent carriage;

means on each said carriage for tracking positions of each said adjacent carriage; and

means for controlling movement of said carriages to avoid collision.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said location means comprises a

position sensor on said carriage.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein said position sensor comprises a

means for sensing distance travelled by said carriage over a predetermined time period

and a means associated with each carriage for calculating a location of said carriage.

16. (Original) A system of claim 14 wherein said position sensor comprises a

rotatable wheel, whereby rotation of the wheel represents the distance travelled by the

carriage.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein said location means further comprises

registration marks associated with said tracks for correcting said location.

18. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising means for preventing any one carriage located on said track from colliding with an adjacent carriage located on said track including an interface translator which is adapted to receive position data from said carriages and store the position of each carriage based on the position data received from said carriages.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising a carriage monitor means which correlates data received from a position sensor on each said carriage and registration marks along said track to store a position of each carriage at a particular instant of time.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said interface translator comprises a data processing means which comprises position management software for storing data relating to the position of each carriage on said track and controls movement of each carriage whereby collisions between adjacent carriages are avoided.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said interface translator provides a means for transferring control information from one carriage to an adjacent carriage.

22. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising position management software that maintains a minimum distance between adjacent carriages.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said position management software provides a means for allocating a priority value to each carriage at a particular time, whereby a carriage allocated a higher priority is commanded by said position management software to move to a predetermined location on said track when said interface translator receives a command signal from a master controller.

24. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said control means comprises a master controller which is connected electrically to an interface translator; said interface translator including a microprocessor controlled by position management software; memory storage means for recording position of each carriage and a minimum distance permitted between adjacent carriages; and a track receiver and transmitter means for communicating data between the master controller and the microprocessor wherein said position management system controls carriages to maintain said minimum distance.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said position management software comprises a polling means for polling each carriage at a predetermined rate to monitor the location of each carriage and an interface translator with means for changing said

polling rate of carriages depending upon whether a carriage is moving or stationary or according to the activity of one or more carriages.

26. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each carriage includes data processing means for recording and storing data relating to a location of said carriage along said track and for transmitting data relating to said carriage's position along said track to an interface translator.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein said data processing means is capable of receiving and storing data relating to the position of each adjacent carriage from said interface translator and/or each adjacent carriage.

28. (Original) A collision avoidance means for a surveillance system comprising two or more movable carriages on a single track, said collision avoidance means comprising: means on each carriage for determining a position of said carriage; means for transmitting said position; means associated with each said carriage for storing said position and receiving and storing a position for one or more adjacent carriages; means for controlling movement of said carriage to avoid moving said carriage to a position recorded as the position of the said adjacent carriage.

29. (Original) The collision avoidance means of claim 28 wherein said means for determining a position is a position sensor comprising a means for sensing distance travelled by said carriage over a predetermined time period and a means associated with each carriage for calculating a location of said carriage.

30. (Original) The collision avoidance means of claim 28 wherein said means for controlling movement prevents said carriage from moving within a predetermined distance of said position recorded as the position of the said adjacent carriage.

31. (Original) A track assembly for a system of claim 1 comprising at least one conductor adapted to support a carriage and an insulative insert supporting said track.

32. (Original) The track assembly of claim 31 wherein said insulative insert for said track assembly comprises:

a top portion with at least one upstanding barb portion adapted to engage a recess of an insert receiving portion of a conductor, whereby removal of said insert is prevented by said barb portion engaging said respective recesses; and

a bottom portion comprising at least one upstanding barb portion adapted to engage a recess of an insert receiving portion of a track, whereby removal of said insert is prevented by said barb portion engaging said respective recesses.

33. (Original) The track assembly of claim 31 comprising two signal conductors and a ground conductor wherein said insulating insert comprises an additional insulating member centrally located perpendicular to said top portion of said insert positioned between said two signal conductors.

34. (Currently amended) A surveillance method including the steps of:
locating two or more carriages on a track;
mounting at least one monitoring device on each said carriage;
providing power to power movement of each said carriage on said track;
transmitting output signals from said monitoring device to a remote location; and
controlling movement of said carriages on said track to avoid collisions between said carriages.

35. (Original) The surveillance method of claim 34 wherein said output signals are image signals.

36. (Original) The surveillance method of claim 34 wherein said output signals are

image and audio signals.

37. (Currently amended) The surveillance method of claim 34 further including the

steps of:

recording a position of each said carriage on said track; and

controlling movement of said carriages to avoid collision.

38. (Currently amended) The surveillance method of claim 34 further including the

steps of:

reading registration marks associated with said tracks;

calculating a position of each carriage relative to said registration marks;

transmitting said position of each carriage and receiving said positions of each carriage;

and

controlling movement of each said carriage to avoid collision of any said carriages.

39. (New) A surveillance system comprising:

an electrical conducting track;

two or more carriages movable on said track;

a driver section mounted on each said carriage for moving each said carriage to different locations along said track;
a power supply providing power to each said carriage;
at least one monitoring device mounted on each said carriage providing an output signal for a monitored location;
a data transceiver for receiving said output signal and for transmitting modulated output signals on said track;
a monitoring system for viewing demodulated output signals at a remote location; and
a positional management system for controlling movement of each said carriage on said track and for avoiding collisions between said carriages.